



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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March 15, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul B. Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist *PBB*

RE: Site Inspection, Miracle Rock Mining and Research, Body Tody Project, S/015/040, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: March 12, 2002  
Time of Inspection: 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.  
Conditions: Partly cloudy  
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM; Dave Taylor, Miracle Rock

#### **Purpose of Inspection:**

To take GPS readings of the combined Miracle Rock and Rockland permit areas and try to determine how large the entire area is.

#### **Getting to the site:**

The report for the October 30, 2001, inspection discusses how to get to the site.

#### **Observations:**

During the inspection, Mr. Taylor gave me a copy of a permit transfer form which would transfer the permit for the Junkyard Mine, permitted by The Rockland Corporation, to Miracle Rock Mining. This document has been signed by both permittees, but it still needs to be accepted and signed by the Division. According to John Blake of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, the lease, controlled by Rockland, has not yet been transferred to Miracle Rock. Therefore, the Division cannot yet approve the transfer.

In the report for the previous inspection, I expressed concern about salvaging topsoil in an area where a trackhoe was working. There is a small topsoil stockpile in this area.

I gathered GPS data around the perimeter of the site. I walked around the bottom of the slopes and on the ledge rock above the mine. Mr. Taylor indicated there has been some firewood gathering and other activities not associated with mining on some of the roads above the mine. I tried not to include these areas. If the permit for the Junkyard Mine is transferred to Miracle Rock, the

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Division is concerned that the acreage for the combined operation may be over five acres and that the operator will need to submit a reclamation bond.

Because of an error made by the person operating the GPS, it was not possible to view the GPS data for the mine site as a single feature, so I had to connect the individual points in ArcView to determine the area. While this method is not as accurate as allowing Pathfinder to compute the area based on data that has been differentially corrected, it does give a reasonably accurate estimate of the area. Using this method, I calculated the mine site area as 5.06 acres. The road is about 1320 feet long and 24 feet wide which comes to about 0.73 acres and a total disturbance area of 5.79 acres. The Division needs to GPS the site again before concluding definitively that the site, including both the Live Earth and the Rockland areas, is greater than five acres. It is clear that each individual area is less than five acres, and since the Division cannot yet approve the permit transfer, there is no need for the Division to hold a surety bond.

I saw no problems the operator needs to correct. I continue to have lingering questions about how the site will be reclaimed, but because this is a small mine, there is no detailed reclamation plan.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The next time a Division representative is in the area, the person should take GPS readings around the disturbed area.

jb  
cc: Bill Ruehman, Rockland  
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